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Cushing View Stirs Vatican

VATICAN CITY — (UPI) — Vatican officials reacted with disbelief today to Richard Cardinal Cushing's statement that the former Jacqueline Kennedy could marry "whomever she wants."

Msgr. Fausto Vallainc, the official Vatican spokesman, reaffirmed the Vatican position that the former American first lady is in an "irregular position" with the Roman Catholic Church because of her marriage to the divorced Aristotle Onassis, and is barred from church sacraments.

"I agree with the Cardinal's statement that only God knows who is a sinner," he said. "But whoever contravenes the law of the church incurs her sanctions."

Other high Vatican sources were more expansive on the Boston Cardinal's remarks in Boston, particularly his rhetorical question, "Why can't she marry whomever she wants to marry and why should I be condemned and why should she be condemned?"

"I don't understand this remark," said one high source. "Surely the Cardinal's remark must have been reported incorrectly. But if he really did say this, then his statement is inexact."

"The lady is in an irregular position with the church, and the Cardinal certainly must have advised her of this in his talk with her."

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